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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	AF-01	AID-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	EB-01	OIGO-01	HA-09	H-01	INM-02	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-16	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02
	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	RP-10	SCT-03
	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	RPE-01	PMB-00	/056W			

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O 171734Z MAY 94
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4864
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 13634

DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR HA A/S SHATTUCK

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PREF, PHUM, RW, BY, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH PRESS COVERAGE OF RWANDA, MAY 15-17:
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SHAPING PUBLIC OPINION

1. (U) SUMMARY AND COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE FRENCH PRESS HAS PROVIDED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF EVENTS IN RWANDA, SEVERAL ARTICLES OF PARTICULAR NOTE APPEARED ON MAY 15-17. THE FIRST TWO ARE BY A FRENCH JOURNALIST FOR "LE FIGARO," WHO ACCOMPANIED ENGLISH-SPEAKING RPF FORCES FROM NORTHERN RWANDA TO KIGALI. THE SECOND IS A HEADLINE ARTICLE IN "LE FIGARO" ON MAY 16 STRESSING THAT THERE HAS BEEN A "DOUBLE GENOCIDE" CARRIED OUT IN

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
DATE/CASE ID: 22 JAN 2004 200301564

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RWANDA. THE THIRD COVERS THE TRIP OF FORMER MINISTER OF HEALTH BERNARD KOUCHER TO KIGALI TO ARRANGE EVACUATION OF ORPHANS TRAPPED IN AN INSTITUTION RUN BY A FRENCH NATIONAL. THE FINAL PIECE IN "LIBERATION" CONTAINS AN ACCUSATION BY THE HIGHLY RESPECTED NGO, MEDECINES SANS FRONTIERES/FRANCE THAT THE GOF BEARS MUCH OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CURRENT CRISIS SINCE IT TRAINED AND EQUIPPED THE RWANDAN ARMY.

2. (C) THE TWO PIECES IN "LE FIGARO" (THE PAPER CLOSEST TO THE BALLADUR GOVERNMENT) WILL SERVE TO CONFIRM THE TREND OF THINKING IN THE GOF ON THE ROLE PLAYED BY UGANDA AND THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE CONTINUED RPF OFFENSIVE WILL PROVOKE A SECOND WAVE OF ETHNIC MASSACRES. ONE OF THE "LE-FIGARO" ARTICLES ALSO ATTEMPTS TO DRAW A DISTINCTION BETWEEN "ANGLOPHONE" MEMBERS OF THE RPF WHO HAVE BEEN LONG EXILED IN UGANDA AND FRANCOPHONES, WHO JOINED THE OPPOSITION IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

"LE FIGARO," MAY 16-17

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3. (U) THE FIRST ARTICLE APPEARED IN "LE FIGARO" ON MAY 15. A JOURNALIST RECOUNTED HIS JOURNEY FOLLOWING A NORTHERN ROUTE INTO KIGALI. HE TRAVELLED WITH RPF REBELS AT NIGHT AND WAS ABLE TO GET AN IDEA OF THE EXTENT OF ZONES UNDER RPF CONTROL AND TO LEARN THE RPF'S ABILITY TO LINK-UP WITH THE CAPITAL AND REINFORCE THE RWANDAN PARLIAMENT BUILDING, WHERE RPF FORCES CONTINUE TO HOLD OUT. THE CONVOY CONSISTED LARGELY OF ENGLISH SPEAKING REBELS, SONS OF RWANDAN TUTSIS WHO HAD FLED TO UGANDA IN THE 60'S AND 70'S. THE AUTHOR GAVE A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE DEVASTED COUNTRYSIDE LITTERED WITH ROTTING CORPSES WITH ONLY THE ROADS CLEARED OF DEAD BODIES. ACCORDING TO CANADIAN GENERAL DALLAIRE, CHIEF OF MINUAR, THE RPF HAS SUCCEEDED IN SURROUNDING KIGALI ON THREE SIDES: NORTH, EAST, AND SOUTH. A OPENING ON THE WEST HAS BEEN DELIBERATELY LEFT OPEN, DELLAIRE BELIEVES, TO ALLOW THE RWANDAN ARMY AN ESCAPE ROUTE.

4. (U) ON MONDAY, MAY 16 "LE FIGARO" FOLLOWED UP WITH A HEADLINE ARTICLE ENTITLED " RWANDA: A DOUBLE

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GENOCIDE." THE ARTICLE REPORTED THAT HEAVY FIGHTING IS ONGOING IN AND NEAR KIGALI AS THE RPF ADVANCE CONTINUES; AND MOST OF THE POPULATION IS DEAD OR HAS LEFT. THE AUTHOR CITES A EVOKES A NUMBER OF THREATS BY HUTU MILITIA MEMBERS AND OTHERS OF NEW ATTACKS ON THE TUTSIS (AND MODERATE HUTUS) IN HIDING, WHO DID NOT FLEE OR ARE TRAPPED IN VARIOUS SITES IF THE RPF TAKES THE CAPITAL. THE JOURNALIST CITES AN ANYNONOMOUS SOURCE

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CLAIMING THAT THE HUTU MILITIA REPORTEDLY HAVE REMOVED 60,000 BODIES FROM KIGALI TO NEARBY GARBAGE DUMPS AND RECENTLY HAVE ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS THAT MURDERED TUTSIS ARE TO BE BURIED WHERE THEY FALL.

KOUCHNER VISIT TO RWANDA

5. (U) THERE WAS EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN ALL THE FRENCH

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PRESS OF THE VISIT TO RWANDA OF FORMER FRENCH HEALTH MINISTER BERNARD KOUCHNER, WHO IS CURRENTLY IN KIGALI. HE IS REPORTEDLY NEGOTIATED WITH THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT ON THE EVACUATION OF CHILDREN IN AN ORPHANAGE RUN BY A HIV-POSITIVE FRENCH NATIONAL. HE ALSO MADE PLEA ON RWANDAN RADIO FOR AN END TO THE MASSACRES AND CITED THE NUREMBURG TRIALS AS AN PRECEDENT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIY'S RESPONSE TO GENOCIDE.

6. (U) UNIDENTIFIED ARMED MEN OPENED FIRE ON THE CONVOY THAT WAS ESCORTING KOUCHNER TO KIGALI BUT NO ONE WAS INJURED. "LIBERATION" ON MAY 17 REPORTED THAT UNAMIR SOURCES CONFIRMED THAT RPF TROOPS TOOK CONTROL OF A PORTION OF THE ROAD BETWEEN KIGALI AND THE CITY OF GITARAMA, WHERE THE ATTACK TOOK PLACE. THE RPF REPORTEDLY CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ATTACK ON THE CONVOY.

6. (C) COMMENT: KOUCHNER (WHO WAS A CO-FOUNDER OF MSF) PLAYED A CRITICAL ROLE IN 1991-92, AS MINISTER OF HEALTH AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, BY DRAWING PUBLIC ATTENTION IN FRANCE AND EUROPE TO THE NEED FOR IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION IN EX-YUGOSLAVIA. HE SUBSEQUENTLY DID THE MUCH THE SAME THING IN SOMALIA DURING SEVERAL VISITS -- INCLUDING ONE VERY WELL-PUBLICIZED EVENT WHERE HE WADED TO THE BEACH FROM A LIGHTER WITH A 50 KILO SACK OF FRENCH-DONATED RICE ON HIS HEAD. KOUCHNER HAS LITTLE POLITICAL INFLUENCE WITH THE BALLADUR GOVERNMENT AND WAS PUBLICLY

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CRITICIZED BY HIS SUCCESSOR FOR USING HUMANITARIAN
POLICY TO "INTERFERE" IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF
RECEIVING STATES AND FOR ATTEMPTING TO SUBSTITUTE
EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR FOREIGN POLICY. HOWEVER, HE
CONTINUES TO BE ADMIRER BY THE FRENCH PUBLIC, AND THIS
TRIP TO KIGALI WILL PROBABLY WIN HIM MORE PLAUDITS.

MSF ACCUSATION

7. (U) THE SAME EDITION OF "LIBERATION" REPORTED THAT
A SPOKESPERSON FOR MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES/FRANCE
(MSF/F) ACCUSED THE GOF ON MAY 16, DURING A INTERVIEW
ON FRANCE'S HIGHEST RATED EVENING NEWS PROGRAM, OF
BEARING MUCH OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CURRENT
CRISIS IN RWANDA DUE TO ITS ARMING AND TRAINING OF
GOVERNMENT FORCES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MASSACRES. MSF
SENT AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT MITTERRAND ASKING HIM
TO STOP THIS SYSTEMATIC EXTERMINATION. FOR THE FIRST
TIME SINCE THE START OF THE MASSACRES FRENCH FOREIGN
MINISTER ALAIN JUPPE OPENLY CONDEMNED THE "GENOCIDE,
SPECIFICALLY IN GOVERNMENT HELD ZONES."

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